

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) An easy-to-open tubular sealed casing for packaging a content therein, the casing comprising:

a base film comprising a composite plastic film with at least three film layers including an outer layer film which forms an outer surface when the composite plastic film is formed into a tubular form, an intermediate layer film which forms an intermediate layer and an inner layer film, said composite plastic film being formed into a tubular form by bending said base film, overlaying two edges of said base film; and

a heat seal section formed by heat-sealing the overlaid section to heat seal together a portion of the outer layer film to a portion of the inner layer film so that a not heat-sealed section will be left along an edge of the film, with a notch provided in an edge of said not-sealed section, a peel strength between said outer layer film and said intermediate layer film being set to a lower level as compared to a peel strength between said inner layer film and said intermediate layer film, whereby a pulling of said not-sealed section adjacent to said notch causes said outer layer film to be disrupted and then peeled from said intermediate film layer starting adjacent to said heat sealed section to open casing.

2. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 1, wherein the peel strength between the outer layer film and the intermediate layer film is set to a range from 10 to 2000 g/15 mm.

3-5 (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) An easy-to-open tubular sealed casing for packaging a content therein, the casing comprising:

a base composite plastic film comprising an outer layer film, an inner layer film and an intermediate layer film between said outer layer film and said inner layer film, said composite plastic film being formed into a tubular form by bending said base film and overlaying two edges of said base film; and

a heat seal formed by heat-sealing the overlaid section to form a heat sealed section between said outer layer film and said inner layer film and a not heat-sealed section outward of said heat sealed section, a peel strength between said outer layer film and said intermediate layer film being set to a lower level as compared to a peel strength between said inner layer film and said intermediate layer film, whereby to open the casing a pulling of said not-sealed section causes said outer layer film to be disrupted adjacent to said heat sealed section and then peeled from said intermediate film layer.

7. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 6, wherein the peel strength between the outer layer film and the intermediate layer film is set to a range from 10 to 2000 g/15 mm.

8. (Previously Presented) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim

6, further comprising a cut into an edge of said not heat-sealed section of said base composite plastic film, said cut extending toward said heat sealed section.

9. (Previously Presented) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 7, further comprising a cut into an edge of said not heat-sealed section of said base composite plastic film, said cut extending toward said heat sealed section.

10. (Original) The easy-to-open tubular sealed casing according to claim 9, wherein said opening facilitating structures include a V-shaped notch, an I-shaped notch, or a flaw in the film.

11. (Previously Presented) A tubular sealed casing comprising:

an intermediate layer with first and second sides;

a first layer arranged on said first side of said intermediate layer, said first layer being connected to said intermediate layer at a first peel strength;

5 a second layer arranged on said second side of said intermediate layer, said second layer being connected to said intermediate layer at a second peel strength, said second peel strength being greater than said first peel strength; and

a heat seal formed by heat-sealing two portions of said layers to form a heat sealed section of said layers and a not heat-sealed section outward of said heat sealed section, whereby
10 to open the casing a pulling of said not-sealed section causes said first layer to be disrupted

adjacent to said heat sealed section and then peeled from said intermediate layer.

12. (Previously Presented) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:

said first, second and intermediate layers are formed into a tubular form by curving said layers and overlapping two portions of said layers, with said heat sealed section having said first layer of one portion contact said second layer of the other said portion.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A casing according to claim 12, wherein:

an opening facilitating structure is arranged at one of said edges of said layers.

15. (Previously Presented) A casing according to claim 14, wherein:

said opening facilitating structure is one of a V-shaped notch, an I-shaped notch, or a flaw in said layers.

16. (Previously Presented) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:

said first and second layers are heat sealed to each other to form said heat seal.

17. (Previously Presented) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:

said intermediate layer is a gas barrier.

18. (Previously Presented) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said intermediate layer is a UV ray absorber.

19. (Currently Amended) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said first and second layers are formed of polypropylene.

20. (Previously Presented) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said intermediate layer is formed of nylon.

21. (Previously Presented) A casing in accordance with claim 19, wherein:
said intermediate layer is formed of nylon.

22. (Currently Amended) A casing in accordance with claim 21, wherein:
said ~~polypropylene~~ polypropylene of said first and second layers are not extended;
said nylon of said intermediate layer is extended.

23. (Previously Presented) A casing in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
said first and second layers are formed from substantially identical materials;
said first and second layers are differently connected to said intermediate layer to have
said second peel strength be greater than said first peel strength.